

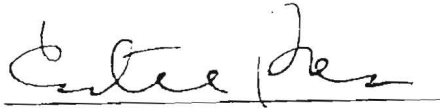
Harry Potter's Quest for Parental Figures

An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

by

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine Shea", is written over a horizontal line.

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Abstract

Throughout the *Harry Potter* series the reader sees Harry on a quest to defeat Lord Voldemort, but there is a second pursuit hidden in the text, Harry's search for parental figures. As Harry and his companions evolve over seven books Harry finds many adults that fill a parental role. Specifically Harry finds many father figures in the novels namely Sirius Black, Albus Dumbledore, and Remus Lupin. This abundance of father figures prompts the question, which one does Harry choose. Through a literary analysis I will argue that Harry finds the strongest father figure in Sirius Black, not Albus Dumbledore. However each character explored here plays a vital role in Harry's develop into a great wizard.

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Introduction

According to a poll taken in 2002 by *Book* magazine ranking the top 100 characters in fiction since 1900, Harry Potter falls at number 85 (“100 Best Characters in Fiction Since 1900”). Often referred to as “the boy who lived” Harry’s orphan status plays a large role in the series. It serves as an igniter for the central conflict of the series, Harry’s duel with Lord Voldemort. Each of the seven novels that comprise the series has a central unique plot, individual themes, and ongoing themes. One such ongoing theme is Harry’s search for a family. In the first novel it becomes apparent that Harry’s family will play a large role in the series.

From the very beginning with Harry’s unsatisfactory home life with the Dursleys’ makes it evident that Harry wants to find more loving and accepting people to fill his life with. This idea is strengthened at the start of the second novel when the reader sees the miserable Harry back at the Dursleys’. Although they begin treating him much better he is still utterly miserable. The most likely reason for his misery is the friends he left behind. Harry’s first year at Hogwarts opens his eyes to how miserable life was at the Dursleys’. After being surrounded by peers who want to spend time with him and adults who treat an eleven-year-old boy with respect, Harry can clearly see the atrocity that was his time spent at on Privet Drive.

With the Dursleys’ falling into a stereotype typically reserved for stepmothers in fairy tales, Harry is left to find some suitable form of parental figure. Although both his parents are deceased it seems the role of father figure is looked at more in the series. This idea that Harry is looking for a father figure and not a mother figure can be seen in the mentions of Harry’s parents throughout the series. Lily Potter is often mentioned in

the series, but these mentions are usually reduced to a comment about Harry's having Lily's eyes. James Potter, however, is mentioned quite often as being just like Harry in look and spirit. This similarity could be the cause for J. K. Rowling's emphasis on replacing James.

The *Harry Potter* series offers up several candidates for Harry's father figure. The first and most obvious, Vernon Dursley, is quickly cast aside in a few pages after the reader sees the way he treats Harry. By chapter two of *The Sorcerer's Stone* Harry's aunt and uncle are disregarded as anything more than legal guardians. The second figure that enters the race for father figure is Rubeus Hagrid. As the series develops Hagrid becomes an unlikely choice for father figure. Although he is seen caring for Harry in many situations he is classified as Harry's friend, not his parent.

The first real contenders for parental figures come in *The Chamber of Secrets* in the form of Arthur and Molly Weasley. The Weasleys, being parents to Harry's best friend and six other children, are the most obvious choices for replacement parents. As the series goes on their characters develop, as does their relationship with Harry. Harry becomes an unofficial member of the family, making it easy for readers to associate parental figures with Molly and Arthur.

Remus Lupin is the next father figure introduced. Although Lupin's role in comparison to other parental figures that Harry interacts with is very minute, Lupin is still counted as a father figure. Lupin provides the first strong connection Harry makes to his parents because Lupin was good friends with Lily and James in their youth. Lupin introduces a new theme into the series, one of inner demons and becomes Harry's first

mentor of sorts. Lupin is introduced in *The Prisoner of Azkaban* which is the same book in which the next father figure is introduced, Sirius Black.

Sirius Black becomes the most promising competitor for the role of Harry's father figure. Sirius becomes an obvious choice when it is revealed that Sirius is Harry's godfather. This coupled with Sirius' close relationship to Lily and James cement the character's importance. Throughout the series two themes emerge regarding Sirius. These themes are the difference between good and bad people and the distinction between friend and parent. Even after Sirius' death in *The Order of the Phoenix* he still plays a large role in the emotional development of Harry.

The final father figure that appears is Albus Dumbledore, the headmaster of Hogwarts. Although Dumbledore appears in the first book before any of the aforementioned parental figures I still consider him to be the last to enter the race for the title of father figure. After his appearances in the first two books it is unapparent the role he will play in the series. He is definitely a protector of sorts, but early in the series he seems to be more of a distant teacher figure. *The Goblet of Fire* is the first book where Dumbledore and Harry interact on a regular basis. By the end of the series Dumbledore is a key figure becoming Harry's mentor and possibly his greatest father figure.

After the sixth book was published author Rowling gave an interview where she declared she always thought of Dumbledore as gay (Gendler, 143). This statement was met with shock and in some cases outrage from Harry Potter fandom. Since each book's publishing Rowling has given interviews divulging information about characters, the future beyond the realm of the final book, and other interesting insights into the world of Harry Potter. The truth about Dumbledore's sexuality was an example of this extra

information, something that will be taken into account here. These interviews and tidbits are crucial to the characters and the story line. With the knowledge that Dumbledore is gay he easily becomes Harry's most controversial father figure and a character that will long be discussed.

The Prisoner of Azkaban offers up a critical point in the series. In the first two books the ending, although different in terms of plot, both conclude on a relatively happy note. The hero, Harry, prevails through every struggle. There is one downside to each ending however. In the first book Professor Quirinus Quirrell is killed, but this potential tragedy is counteracted by the fact that Quirrell was not only aiding the most evil wizard of all time but also trying to kill Harry. In the second book the saddest event is when Gilderoy Lockhart is sent to St. Mungo's Hospital for Magical Maladies and Injuries with a faulty memory and will most likely spend the rest of his life there. This event is more tragic than the end of the first book because Lockhart is not an inherently evil character. The blow of this event is lessened in three ways. First it is Lockhart's own spell that backfires, making him the only person responsible. Second his spell backfires because he is trying to erase the memories of Harry and Ron, something the average reader is vehemently opposed to. The final reason this event does not appear as a tragic one in the series is simply because the reader is not yet privy to the sad fate that awaits Lockhart. They do understand that Lockhart has had his memory tampered with and will be taken to the hospital. However it is not until *The Goblet of Fire* that the reader sees what Lockhart's life has become, a life confined to the walls of St. Mungo's Hospital for Magical Maladies and Injuries and lived in blissful naivety.

The Prisoner of Azkaban is the first book in the series with a sequence of events that do not work out perfectly in the end. Harry is unable to catch Peter Pettigrew, Sirius is forced into hiding, Voldemort is once again united with his most loyal follower. This ending is not one that befalls a classic hero. From the third book through the seventh it seems that Harry no longer lives in a protected world where bad cannot happen. It's true that terrible things did happen in the first two books, but Harry seemed to be more sheltered, and there was a central list of characters that are not harmed. By the seventh book no such list exists, every character is threatened and main characters such as Lupin, Fred Weasley, Sirius, Hedwig the owl, and even Dumbledore are killed off.

This shift between the second book and third book is crucial. It represents Harry's ascent into adulthood and coincides with his search for a true family. Aspects such as this shift, Harry's quest for a family, and Rowling's representation of the characters Harry surrounds himself with will be discussed in further detail here. Just as Rowling gave her readers further insight into characters by revealing details about them after publication, I will try to bring more meaning to the series as a whole by examining the parental figure aspect in depth.

Chapter One

The Potters

The deaths of Lily and James Potter that start the Harry Potter series must be paid some attention in this thesis. Throughout the series Harry's parents play a prominent role in his life even though their characters make very few appearances. The entire plot of the series is driven by Harry's parents; whether it be the search to find them, find a father figure, destroy Lord Voldemort, or meet his fate, Lily and James always play a prominent role. Lily and James are the driving force behind the relationship Harry has with three of the other father figures discussed here, Remus Lupin, Sirius Black, and Albus Dumbledore. In fact the only parental figures that did not have a close relationship to Lily and James are Molly and Arthur Weasley.

The Dursleys' refusal to share stories of Lily and James Potter with Harry created a world where Harry did not know his parents for ten years. Sure he knew their names and a vague, false description of their death, but he was not permitted to know their character. Throughout the series Harry is on a quest to understand the people his parents were, particularly his father. Everyone Harry encounters raves about his mother and how kind hearted she was. This means her character is validated in the same way over and over making her less of a mystery to Harry. It is James Potter that is the true conundrum. Harry gets bits and pieces of James's past and tries to connect them into a whole that will be good or bad. The truth that James reveals is not black and white, because the world is not divided into good and bad people. Instead the character revealed for James Potter is grey; he is a person that has good and bad qualities.

Throughout the series the reader sees more instances of Harry looking for James than Lily. Harry's quest for a father is apparent first in the number of times James is mentioned over Lily. Statistically James and Lily are mentioned in the series approximately the same number of times ("Top 200"). However the memories from which their names are brought up focus more on James. An example of this is the memory Harry views in Snape's pensieve (*OotP*, 641). This memory is about James and Sirius tormenting Snape, but as the reader learns where James and Snape are Lily most likely is as well. This in part explains the reason Lily is mentioned as many times as James. When Harry meets people that knew his parents they also like to tell him that he has his mother's eyes, which again brings her name up frequently. In summary James and Lily are mentioned around the same number of times throughout the series, but when James is mentioned it leads to character development. When Lily is mentioned the text usually just notes her presence and does not reveal something new about her character. This reinforces the idea that Lily's character is constant, something Harry knows from the beginning. Throughout the series Lily remains a static character, which is acceptable because she is already deceased at the start of series and Rowling does not spend time developing her character. James on the other becomes a dynamic character because greater time is spent on the changes that occurred in his youth, like his treatment of Snape. The greater focus on James creates an air of importance around him that Lily does not have in the series.

The fascination with Lily and James starts early on in the series in *The Sorcerer's Stone*. In this book Harry learns his father was an admirable Quidditch player (*SS*, 152). Harry is told his father would be proud to see his son following in his footsteps, making

this the first time Harry gains a connection to his father in the magical world (SS, 152). In this book Dumbledore offers some clues to James' nature during his time at Hogwarts. This is the first time we see Dumbledore getting close to Harry, teaching Harry about his past. Dumbledore reveals that the invisibility cloak belonged to James, who left it with Dumbledore before his death (SS, 299). This establishes a connection between Dumbledore and James that lays groundwork for Harry's later relationship with the headmaster, something that is explored further later on. Dumbledore says James used it for mischievous purposes, but makes light of them saying it was mainly sneaking food from the kitchen (SS, 299). Harry himself is no stranger to detentions and slight rule breaking, which allows him to identify with his father. James's character is further inflated when Dumbledore tells him James saved Severus Snape's life at some point (SS, 300). The details of the incident are not revealed yet, but the act seems heroic, leaving the reader and Harry to view James as a champion.

The mystery of Lily and James Potter thickens in *The Prisoner of Azkaban*. When Harry learns the identity of his godfather, Sirius Black, and what Sirius did to Harry's family, he becomes engulfed in rage. Later he learns that Sirius was innocent, something that will be discussed later. This is also the book in which Harry meets his father's other close friend, Remus Lupin. After Harry meets Sirius and Lupin his connection to his parents becomes stronger. Now that Harry knows his father's best friends from school Lily and especially James become more tangible in Harry's mind. Once again here is a stress on James and not Lily. Sirius and Lupin both knew James and Lily, but they were James Potter's best friends during his time at Hogwarts, not Lily's. The entrance of

Lupin and Sirius bring up more memories of James than Lily, making a subplot in the series of Harry 's searching for his father or a father figure.

The Goblet of Fire offers readers and Harry something no one ever expected, the ability to converse with his parents. In the graveyard when Harry and Voldemort duel their wands become entwined and *Priori Incantatum* occurs (*GoF*, 697). Voldemort's wand is forced to regurgitate previous spells performed (*GoF*, 697). "Echoes" of the last five people Voldemort killed appear, including Lily and James Potter (*GoF*, 697). The way Rowling describes the appearance of Lily and James emphasizes the importance of James yet again. When Lily appears the description is "the smoky shadow of a woman with long hair fell to the ground as Bertha had done, straightened up, and looked at him" (*GoF*, 667). Harry then realizes that the woman is his mother. Her first words to her son are "Your father is coming" (*GoF*, 667). Right here it is clear that even Lily is focused on Harry and his relationship with James. A mother's first words to her son she never got to see grow up is about the son's father, not her relationship with her son.

A similar thing occurs in *The Deathly Hallows*; Harry once again meets the echoes of past loved ones. This time is very different for two reasons. The first is that Harry chooses what echoes will visit him by using the Resurrection Stone to call them (*DH*, 699). Harry calls James, Lily, Lupin, and Sirius back to the living world as creatures in between a solid living body and ghost (*DH*, 699). This moment is crucial for several reasons, the first being that once again the reader is able to see James and Lily in something other than dream or memory. Once again Rowling establishes James as prominent by mentioning him first.

This scene in the Forbidden Forest as Harry walks to his supposed death illuminates some key point in his quest for parental figures. He conjures up these echoes of the four people he most wants to spend his last moment with: four people that will give him comfort in knowing he made the right choice. James is the first echo the reader learns Harry has brought back with the Resurrection Stone, and by naming him first Rowling stays on track with the idea that he is of greater importance to Harry (*DH*, 699). Then the book diverges from this road it has been on for the entire series; after the initial description of each echo Rowling focuses on Lily Potter and her connection with Harry (*DH*, 700).

At first this seems to throw off everything up until this point about the dynamic between Harry and his parents, however after further inspection it strengthens the previous thought that James is the mystery of the two. Harry focuses on Lily because he knows her character so well despite having never truly met her. He trusts Lily to be the one to comfort him now because she is his true mother figure who might be mimicked by characters like Mrs. Weasley but will never be replaced. Focusing less on James in this scene confirms the idea that James is a mystery to Harry. This idea is stated yet again by Harry resurrecting one maternal figure and three paternal figures. Here in the forest at the culmination of the series Rowling spells out the true relationship between Harry, Lily, and James, a relationship that is a mix of mystique and love.

These instances where Harry is able to see his parents again show them coming to his aid in the time he needs them most. The first occurs when Lord Voldemort returns and Harry being only fourteen has a hard time defending himself and the second occurs when he must walk freely to his death. In both instances Lily Potter is there to help her son and

comfort him. As discussed Lily is the one that speaks with Harry in the forest and she is the one in the graveyard that assures him he can hold on long enough to see James (*DH*, 700; *GoF*, 667). These appearances of Lily show her as the classic motherly figure from fairy tales, always coming to the rescue when she is truly needed (Grimes, 96). This is something no other motherly figure in the series is able to do, which further distinguishes Lily as the one and only mother figure.

Harry's parents do appear throughout the series but their presence is not great enough to justify both of them as his parental figures. It is their absence that ignites in Harry the driving force to seek out father figures throughout the series. He does try to understand what they would have wanted, but he never is able to learn enough about them to do so. In the end he decides that he must be satisfied with his own decision and that this would be the best way to honor his parents' wishes. The fact that Harry never finds a parental figure in James is highlighted by the characters that Harry uses to fill the role of parent. Characters like Albus Dumbledore, Sirius Black, and Remus Lupin knew the Potters on various levels. Harry seeks these characters out as parental figures because they knew his parents. On some level he feels that they will bring him closer to his parents, specifically James and for this reason they become his father figures.

Chapter Two

The Dursleys

Harry Potter is a character that develops greatly over the course of a seven book series. In this span of seven years he acquires a family of sorts, one that is meant to fill the void left by his parents death. Specifically he seeks a father figure. Before I delve into the nitty-gritty of which characters show the most merit in certain aspects of fatherhood, his only living relatives must be given some attention. The Dursleys are Harry's only blood relatives and, therefore, his sole kin. They must be discussed because they pose such an interesting anomaly.

An ongoing oddity in the Harry Potter series is the Dursleys. The mere presence of Vernon, Petunia, and Dudley Dursley brings loads of questions to the reader's mind. For example, why does Petunia hate Lily Potter so much, why do the Dursleys hate magic so much, how could Harry put up with them for so many years, etc. After Harry's first year at Hogwarts he acquires many friends. As the years pass he grows closer to these friends at school, particularly Ron and Hermione, and even some of his professors. With this in mind it seems logical that at some point Harry would not return to the Dursleys' home for summer vacation, instead staying with a friend. Later in the series Harry learns the charm his mother used to save his life all those years ago will protect him as long as he can call his mother's blood relative's house his home (*OotP*, 836).

Throughout the series the Dursley family gives off the air that they disdain Harry and his existence. The exception to this appears in the last book when Dudley embraces Harry before he leaves the house for the last time. On the one hand the reader sees the immense compassion Harry has, even for those who have treated him terribly. This

power of Harry's is shown over and over again. On the other hand this scene demonstrates that there was some amount of love or respect between Harry and the Dursleys. Dudley is always seen as the ringleader of the family. Time and time again Vernon and Petunia make sure it is known that they would do anything Dudley asked of them, only drawing the line in the very first novel by not telling him of Hogwarts.

After the outward affection toward Harry from Dudley it is easier to see all the little things the Dursleys did for Harry over the years. The first is protection. As the reader learns Petunia took Harry in after making a deal with Dumbledore. In *The Sorcerer's Stone*, Vernon and Petunia go to extreme lengths to keep Harry from going to Hogwarts. If they truly despised him why would they not want Harry to spend a majority of his year somewhere else? It seems that they are trying to protect him from the thing that they fear the most, which in turn would protect them as well. Arthur and Petunia do not even lie to Harry about the origin of the mysterious letters that appear in *The Sorcerer's Stone* (p. 37). Instead they merely keep him from opening them without offering an excuse.

At any point in Harry's life the Dursleys had the option of kicking him out of the house. As the reader learns this would have put him in mortal danger, but the Dursleys never do that. This mixed with the brief examples listed above form a new idea about the Dursleys, one that says they did love Harry. If they did not love Harry or care about his safety at all they could have shown that at any time. This would have resulted in a dramatically different plot; some might say Rowling let Harry stay at the Dursleys' out of convenience. This however does not hold up with the turmoil that Rowling has put Harry through in the series. Rowling has killed off some of the readers and Harry's most loved

characters. Based on this it does not make sense for Rowling to spare Harry some additional hardship by allowing him to stay at Number 4 Privet Drive. This points to the idea that the Dursleys do care about Harry.

This love that the Dursleys have for Harry comes off as hate more than love for two reasons, the first being magic. The Dursleys were afraid of magic, something that is blatantly obvious whenever Harry comes home for summer and threatens his family. This fact is made apparent in the way Harry plans to hold magic over the Dursleys to scare them at the end of his first year at Hogwarts (*SS*, 309). The natural response in humans toward something they fear is avoidance. People put distance between themselves and the object of fear, something the Dursleys do with magic. Petunia Dursley makes her opinion of magic and her sister very clear when she calls Lily Potter a freak (*SS*, 53). The Dursleys fear of magic is very obvious throughout and is shown again and again in the way Dudley cringes when Harry has his wand or the way the Dursleys keep his wand locked up (*OotP*, 15; *CoS*, 26).

The second reason for the Dursleys' apparent hatred of Harry rests with Harry and not the Dursleys. Throughout the series the reader realizes that Harry still holds onto his parents very tightly. This relationship he has with his parents has already been explored in the previous chapter. In summary Lily and James Potter will always surpass any character trying to fill the role of parent for Harry because they are his true parents. Harry does search for parental figures, namely a father figure, but none will surpass his blood parents. This is the first strike against the Dursleys in Harry's mind. The second is in Harry's great ability to love. Love becomes a prevalent theme at the end of the series; it becomes the most powerful magic of all (*OotP*, 843). As the reader will learn

Dumbledore believes that because Harry has such a great heart and ability to love he will stand a chance in the epic battle against Lord Voldemort (*OotP*, 843). This capacity for love tarnished Harry's relationship with the Dursleys because they do not have the ability to love as much as Harry. Harry has a great ability to give and receive love and the difference between his ability and the Dursleys' causes one to not understand the other. This discrepancy cripples their relationship, it is why they cannot understand what Harry has been through and why he cannot understand what he views as their indifference. In reality Harry's relationship with the Dursleys is one of tragic misunderstanding. Fortunately as stories have taught for many years tragedy breeds heroes.

Chapter Three

Molly and Arthur Weasley

Arthur and Molly Weasley represent the most traditional parents that Harry befriends in the series. Out of all 200 characters that appear in the Harry Potter series, the Weasleys share the closest relationship with Harry. This is primarily due to Harry's best friend being a part of the Weasley family. As the story progresses Harry spends more and more time at the Burrow and becomes increasingly closer with the Weasley children and Arthur and Molly. This quality time leads Harry to form a bond with Arthur and Molly that resembles that of parent and child. He effectively becomes an unadopted Weasley.

Any reader can simply see the importance the Weasley family plays in the series. Harry first meets them at Kings Cross station before boarding the Hogwarts Express for his first year (SS, 93). Being a first year Harry is unsure how to properly get to Platform 9 ¾ and asks Molly Weasley how to do so (SS, 93). She quickly helps him and offers the first kind heartened interaction he has with an adult woman. Molly makes one other appearance in *The Sorcerer's Stone* and that is at Christmas. Although Molly does not directly appear in this scene the reader learns that she is behind some of Harry's Christmas presents (SS, 200). Molly has made Harry a Christmas sweater or better yet a "Weasley sweater", something Weasley children receive every year for Christmas (SS, 200). This sweater shows the first time Harry is considered part of the Weasley family. It is important to remember that Harry has only met Molly one time, at the train station. At this point he has met five of the seven Weasley children and has never known Arthur Weasley. The fact that Harry and Ron are friends seems to be enough for Molly to

welcome Harry into the family. This is the first time the reader has the chance to associate Harry with being a Weasley family member.

The relationship between Harry and Arthur and Molly does not escalate until *The Prisoner of Azkaban*. Molly and Arthur briefly appear in *The Chamber of Secrets*, but this appearance is not as strong as the ones later in the series. In *The Chamber of Secrets* Harry is welcomed into the Weasley house for the first time (CoS, 33). Here Harry's interaction with Molly is not as sincere and familiar. She clearly treats him differently than her actual children; this is done through extreme kindness. Harry arrives at the Burrow under difficult circumstances, which causes Molly to be upset with all her children involved, but not Harry (CoS, 34). In *The Prisoner of Azkaban* the reader sees the first time the Weasleys treat Harry as a parent would treat a child. In the beginning Arthur shares a moment with Harry where he warns him of the danger that might await Harry at Hogwarts with Sirius Black on the loose.

The affection shown by the Arthur and Molly in *The Prisoner of Azkaban* is much more genuine than in the previous novels. Harry overhears a conversation between Arthur and Molly where they discuss his safety at Hogwarts (PoA, 65). This moment shows two parents having sincere concern for Harry and his wellbeing. Although Harry takes this as the Weasleys treating him like a child readers should see it differently. It is the first moment when an adult shows genuine anxiety on Harry's behalf. Worry is not something Harry is used to living with the Dursleys, who could care less about his wellbeing. With the opening of *The Prisoner of Azkaban* the reader gets to see Harry surrounded by a large, close knit unit of friends and loved ones, including parental figures like Molly and Arthur. The Weasleys are just one of several parental figures that become

closer to Harry in *The Prisoner of Azkaban*. This might be attributed to the increasing danger that is present in the rest of the series.

The most important scene in the series in strengthening the parental bond between the Weasleys and Harry comes in *The Goblet of Fire*. Before the final task of the Triwizard Tournament family members of the champions are brought in to spend the day with them (*GoF*, 614). Harry is called into the chamber off the Great Hall to greet his guests. Harry is apprehensive and seems increasingly aware that his only family is the Dursleys. Upon entering the room it is revealed that Molly and her eldest son Bill have come to watch Harry perform the final task of the Triwizard Tournament (*GoF*, 615). Before he enters this room Harry's mood is dismal, something only made worse by the threat of interacting with the Dursleys or the shame of not having a family like the other champions. Yet, after spending the day with Molly and Bill, Harry's mood completely changes. He no longer feels nervous for the dangerous event that looms ahead; instead he eats dinner in the Great Hall surrounded by the Weasleys and Hermione feeling as if he were sitting at the Burrow (*GoF*, 618).

The arrival of Molly at Hogwarts for the Triwizard Tournament shows her dedication to Harry. The event is reminiscent of a mother attending her son's soccer championship. The point made in this scene is that Harry does have a family. It might not be the Dursleys that he spent almost his entire life living with or his biological family, but it is the Weasleys and a family all the same. His reaction to walking the grounds with Molly and Bill emphasize the deprivation he must have felt for so many years. Simply talking about Molly's old memories of Hogwarts brings a smile to Harry's face and erases his fears about the third task (*GoF*, 617).

The Order of the Phoenix proves to be a more testing book for the relationship between Harry and the Weasleys. Approximately halfway through the book it is confirmed that Arthur has been attacked (*OotP*, 471). Until the fifth book Harry's interaction with Ron's parents predominantly revolved around Molly. Arthur did have several appearances but they were not as deep as the ones Harry had with Molly. In *The Order of the Phoenix* Arthur is nearly killed. Rowling has stated that from very earlier on in the series she knew what characters would be killed off ("A Conversation"). Out of this list none were taken off the chopping block except for one.

Although readers grew close to characters like Dobby, Dumbledore, and Sirius, Arthur Weasley was the only character saved from death. Rowling revealed that she initially was going to kill Arthur off when Nagini bit him in the basement of the Ministry of Magic (Brown). Rowling admitted that Arthur was saved because "you could make a very good case for Arthur Weasley being the only good father in the whole series" (Brown). Rowling admits that Arthur is the most effective father represented in the books. Not only does Arthur's living allow Harry to continue to have a positive father figure in his life, but it also strengthens the bond between Harry and Arthur. Without Harry and his connection to Voldemort Arthur would have died outside the Hall of Prophecy.

Arthur's near death in *The Order of the Phoenix* causes Harry to feel immense guilt. His connection to Lord Voldemort allowed him to not only see the event take place but it puts Harry in the place of the snake doing the attacking (*OotP*, 470). Because Harry was an attacker in his vision he feels partially responsible for Arthur's injuries and become aloof toward the Weasleys for the next few chapters. These emotions Harry feels

culminate at St. Mungo's Hospital for Magical Maladies and Injuries when Arthur and other Weasleys thank him profusely (*OotP*, 487-489). They show Harry that he saved Arthur and had nothing to do with the attack planned by Lord Voldemort.

The Half-blood Prince does not contain one great moment that demonstrates the bond between Harry, Molly, and Arthur. Instead the book offers up scenes of Harry at the Burrow. The relationship between Harry and the Weasleys is natural and comfortable. It is one of the best examples of the familial bond. Harry does not feel like a guest at the Burrow. The characters treat it as if Harry were coming home after a long time away, not visiting friends for the end of summer vacation. Molly fusses over Harry's thinness and makes him dinner even though he arrives late at night after everyone else has gone to bed (*HBP*, 81-82). All these little scenes add up to a sense of assurance for the reader that Harry is not alone. Even when the Wizarding World is crumbling he still has friends and pseudo family members to stand by his side. It strengthens the argument that Arthur and Molly are a type of parental figure to Harry. It does this by making their interactions more commonplace and familiar.

The Deathly Hallows offers another significant moment between Harry and Molly. This moment also explains in part the reasons behind her overprotection of her children and loved ones. As tradition dictates Harry and Ron both receive watches on their 17th birthdays (*DH*, 114). Arthur and Molly had given Ron a brand new watch for his birthday months earlier; Molly explains to Harry that they could not afford to get two new watches so he will be getting a used watch (*DH*, 114). She goes on to say that the watch he will be receiving belonged to her older brother, Gideon (*DH*, 114). This moment causes two crucial reactions in the Harry, Arthur, and Molly relationship.

Harry's response is the first and most obvious reaction. He is overwhelmed at having someone care for him so much. Harry was once a stranger to presents, but upon meeting Ron and through him Mrs. Weasley he becomes accustomed to the idea of receiving gifts. Mrs. Weasley attempts to continue explaining the reasons behind the watch; Harry interrupts her with a hug (*DH*, 114). He becomes overwhelmed with euphoria because he finally has someone caring for him and celebrating his coming of age. This, much like the moment in *The Goblet of Fire* reaffirms their connection and validates it as one of mother and child. *The Deathly Hallows* shows Harry, nineteen years later glancing at the very same watch while waiting for the Hogwarts Express (*DH*, 757). Harry still wears the battered old watch almost 20 years after he first received it, showing how much it meant to him.

This moment also informs the reader of whom Molly's brother was. In *The Order of the Phoenix* Mad-Eye Moody shows Harry a picture of the original Order of the Phoenix (*OotP*, 173). Moody lists the names of the members and briefly mentions two brothers, Gideon and Fabian Prewett (*OotP*, 174). When Molly says that the watch she gave Harry belonged to her older brother this refers to Gideon Prewett, who died with his brother while facing Lord Voldemort and several other Death Eaters. Rowling revealed in an interview that the death of Molly's only brothers is most likely where her overprotection comes from (*Accio Quote!*). Molly is probably associating the danger her brothers faced by being in the Order of the Phoenix with Harry's constant battles with Lord Voldemort. Molly giving Harry one of the remaining possessions of her late brother shows the level of importance Harry has gained amongst the Weasleys. Only a family member would be

worthy of such an honor, to where the watch of Gideon Prewett, a man that died like a hero according to Moody (*OotP*, 174).

In the end the Weasleys do become Harry's family because of his marriage to Ginny Weasley (*DH*, 753). Arthur and Molly end up being his father and mother in law. This decision brings his relationship with the Weasley family full circle. For so much of the series Harry pined for a family, reveling in the time he was able to spend at the Burrow. The examples show moments when Arthur and Molly acted as Harry's parents and created in Harry a want to be their son. All the evidence points to Rowling grooming the relationship between Harry and the Weasleys to make them the perfect in-laws. Because Harry marries Ginny Weasley her parents can never be his, thus their parental role will always be that of mother and father in law. Although the audience sees the many instances of fatherly and motherly affection toward Harry they are not the strongest parental figures in the book. Arthur and Molly still have a distinct line drawn between Harry and their children. As the series develops their relationship with Harry becomes more comfortable, but Harry does not confide in them the way he does other characters. Harry's attitude to other father figures in the series is much different than his toward Molly and Arthur, something I'll be looking at in later chapters.

Chapter Four

Remus Lupin

Of all the characters that are thought to be father figures to Harry Potter, Remus Lupin is the oddest choice. Although Lupin is a prominent character in the series, he appears the least amount of all the father figures looked at in this thesis. Lupin makes an appearance in only four of the seven novels. He also has a very distinct problem; he is a werewolf, which makes him a very unconventional father figure for wizarding and Muggle standards. Despite his lack of appearances Remus Lupin is an essential adult to the development of Harry and proves to be a mentor to the boy.

Harry's first meeting with Lupin shows Harry in a dangerous situation with Lupin coming to the rescue. This moment occurs on the Hogwarts Express as Harry and his friends make their way back to Hogwarts for their third year of school (*PoA*, 74). The Hogwarts Express is stopped and boarded by dementors; these creatures target Harry and nearly perform the kiss on him (*PoA*, 83). Lupin comes to the rescue and conjures a patronus to keep the Dementor at bay (*PoA*, 84). When Harry regains consciousness Lupin makes sure the boy eats chocolate, which helps with such afflictions. This action could be taken in two lights: Lupin could be taking care of Harry like a father would a son or he could be caring for one of his students in the way a professor should. This idea of protecting his students is seen again when Lupin refuses to let Harry face the boggart that is hiding in the staff lounge (*PoA*, 138). Lupin later admits that he stepped in front of Harry because Lupin feared the boggart would turn into Voldemort and frighten his students (*PoA*, 156). Lupin thought his students would panic if they saw Lord Voldemort materialize in Hogwarts so he took Harry's opportunity to fight the boggart (*PoA*, 156).

This action was done to protect the students from fear and panic, showing that Lupin cares greatly for his students.

Lupin's relationship with Harry deepens when Harry begins receiving private lessons with Lupin. Harry wants to be able to defend himself from dementors and Lupin agrees to teach Harry the Patronus Charm (*PoA*, 188-189). During these lessons it becomes apparent that Lupin plays a vital role in this book and Harry's life. First the reader learns that Lupin was a friend to James Potter (*PoA*, 241). This is only the second close friend of Harry's parents that the reader has learned is still alive, the first being Sirius Black. Harry forms a connection with Lupin because Lupin knew his parents; it offers Harry a way of getting closer to his parents.

Lupin does end up being vital in establishing Harry's relationship with Sirius; Lupin helps convince Harry that the true servant to Voldemort is Peter Pettigrew and not Sirius (*PoA*, 366). Without Lupin's rationality to guide Sirius the scene in the Shrieking Shack would not have played out the same and the relationship between Harry and his godfather might never have existed. Lupin's rationality is something that holds constant throughout his role in the series. He helps Harry see that light and darkness exist in every person. Lupin does this in part by being a werewolf. Rowling has stated that Lupin's struggle with an inner beast is a metaphor for people dealing with mental illness and disabilities (Fraser). By demonstrating the beast within Lupin, he shows Harry and readers that everyone has demons, literal or metaphoric, and a full life can still be lived with said demons.

Lupin's role in *The Prisoner of Azkaban* resembles the role that Albus Dumbledore will later play in the series, the position of mentor to Harry. Lupin questions

Harry's attitudes toward events, especially those surrounding Sirius Black and challenges Harry to think fully about them. Lupin reveals that the dementors have permission to suck out Sirius' soul if they find him and Harry thinks this is well deserved (*PoA*, 247). Lupin tries to get Harry to show some empathy toward Sirius by asking if anyone truly deserves such a horrible fate (*PoA*, 247). At this point in the novel Harry thinks Sirius deserves such a fate because of what Sirius did to Lily and James Potter (*PoA*, 247). "Do you really think anyone deserves that?" (*PoA*, 247). Lupin's question is a loaded one that Harry cannot quite place immediately.

Lupin is asking the young boy to learn to forgive and show empathy for all people regardless of their actions. This is mirrored by Dumbledore later in *The Deathly Hallows* when Harry is speaking to Dumbledore in what appears to be King's Cross Station (*DH*, 722). "Do not pity the dead, Harry. Pity the living, and, above all, those who live without love" (*DH*, 722). Here Dumbledore is asking Harry to pity the grotesque creature that Voldemort has turned into, not to hate him for all the wrong he did. This is similar to Lupin's message of pitying Sirius for the fate that waits after the Dementor's Kiss is performed. Harry responds in a vague manner but the narrator tells readers that Harry wished he could tell Lupin about the conversation he overheard and subsequently how Sirius was responsible for the death of Lily and James Potter (*PoA*, 248). This is a huge step; Harry wants to confide in Lupin something he has not yet done with any other Hogwarts professor.

Lupin also shows his role as a pseudo mentor when he teaches Harry the Patronus Charm. Harry begs Lupin to show Harry ways to defend himself against Dementors (*PoA*, 188-189). The Patronus Charm is more advanced magic than anything the students

have done before (*PoA*, 237). In fact, Lupin explains that many adult wizards have trouble conjuring a full-bodied Patronus (*PoA*, 237). By the end of the novel Harry is able to conjure a full patronus that takes the shape of a stag and is extremely powerful (*PoA*, 411). After the Patronus chases away the Dementors Harry realizes the shape is a stag, knowing that James Potter was an Animagus that transformed into a stag (*PoA*, 412). Once again the reader sees Lupin giving Harry another connection to his father. The Patronus Charm is something that Harry becomes known for, showing that Lupin taught Harry a spell that would become one of Harry's signature spells. Later in *The Order of the Phoenix*, Harry's ability to conjure a Patronus during the Charms portion of his Ordinary Wizarding Levels exam earns him bonus points (*OotP*, 714). The relevance of the Patronus Charm is just another example of the importance Lupin holds in Harry's life.

The Order of the Phoenix shows Harry's relationship with various father figures being tested. Sirius and Dumbledore both put strains on their relationships with Harry, which will be explored further in the next two chapters. *The Order of the Phoenix* also gives the reader a darker view of James Potter. Harry views a memory from Severus Snape's pensieve that shows Sirius and James bullying Snape (*OotP*, 646). This memory disturbs Harry because it shows Sirius and James as bullies and confirmed Snape's previous statements regarding James' arrogance (*OotP*, 650). Harry later risks great punishment by breaking into Dolores Umbridge's office to talk to Sirius about what he saw in the pensieve (*OotP*, 667). Lupin is the one to answer Harry first and remains present during the conversation about James' past (*OotP*, 669). After Harry tells them of the memory he saw Lupin is the first to respond, asking Harry not to judge James on a

memory of when he was only fifteen years old (*OotP*, 670). During this tender conversation Lupin oversees godfather and godson while offering a rational comment when needed. Lupin is the one that helps guide this conversation and allows Harry to see that even James had poor judgment in his youth.

Lupin is also present for the Battle of the Department of Mysteries, where Sirius is killed (*OotP*, 806). When Sirius dies Harry attempts to go aid him but Lupin restrains Harry (*OotP*, 806). Lupin immediately understands what has happened and calmly tells Harry there is nothing they can do to help (*OotP*, 806). Once again Lupin and his calm rationality guide Harry and help him understand what has happened to Sirius. As a character Lupin does not appear often after he leaves his position at Hogwarts. However when he does come around he remains a constant source of rationality for Harry. This is seen again in *The Half-Blood Prince* when Harry tries to convince Lupin that Snape is not on their side (*HBP*, 333). Lupin shuts down these accusations by telling Harry that Dumbledore trusts Snape and therefore they should, despite the feud that James and Snape had (*HBP*, 333).

Lupin's feelings for Harry are apparent in the beginning of *The Deathly Hallows* when Lupin is one of the people risking their lives to transport Harry from Privet Drive to the Burrow (*DH*, 45). This shows early on in the final novel that Lupin wants to protect Harry. This is reiterated after the group learns of Alastor Moody's death (*DH*, 81). Harry thanks everyone that risked their lives to help him and admits he does not believe anyone betrayed him (*DH*, 80). Lupin implores Harry not to trust blindly but admires Harry's loyalty to his friends and says it resembles James' (*DH*, 81). Here again Lupin is trying to guide Harry, challenging Harry to question the people he trusts.

Although Lupin is a calm, rational figure like Dumbledore he does lose control, which makes it hard to accept him as a father figure. As discussed Lupin is a werewolf and knows all about inner demons. Once transformed Lupin has no self-control, which can lead to people being attacked (Ostry, 97). This idea of little self-control juxtaposes the calm, rational Lupin that is present in four of the novels. It shows that Lupin has extremes, either calm in the most dire of situations, like watching his best friend Sirius die or out of control, like attacking students after not taking his Wolfsbane Potion (*OotP*, 806; *PoA*, 380-381).

Early on in the series Dumbledore's character was not as active as he was toward the latter half. In many ways Lupin fills the role of mentor early on, however this role is not as consistent and prolonged as the one Dumbledore plays. The reason for this is the unpredictability of Lupin's self-control. This lack of control that Lupin shows does not only occur during the full moon after he has transformed into a werewolf. Most notably it occurs right before the birth of his first child (*DH*, 213). This moment shows the reason Harry never truly thinks of Lupin as a father figure. Lupin reveals that his wife is pregnant and he wants to distance himself from her and the unborn child because he is ashamed of being a werewolf (*DH*, 213). Harry has a very strong reaction to this announcement because in his mind Lupin is willingly abandoning his child. Harry's quick anger comes out, which brings out a side of Lupin that is not often seen (*DH*, 213). The narrator notes, "Harry saw, for the first time ever, the shadow of the wolf upon Lupin's human face" (*DH*, 213). This marks Lupin's biggest loss of self-control when he is not a werewolf. Later on in the novel Lupin and Harry make amends but this key

moment of Lupin fleeing and not fighting to stay with his unborn child is the reason Lupin is not Harry's true father figure.

This moment of weakness from Lupin shows Harry caring for Lupin and not Lupin caring for Harry. After their fight Harry remarks that his own comments were a mistake but they would be worthwhile if they drove Lupin to return home to Tonks (*DH*, 215). This scene reveals the true juxtaposition in the codes between Lupin and Harry. Harry stands his ground and fights for good, which is seen time and time again in the series and not only when Harry meets Lord Voldemort. The reader sees Lupin typically opt for flight and not fight (Green, 103). The loss of his job at Hogwarts, his wife's pregnancy, his role as Head Boy, and his actions toward Severus Snape are instances where Lupin took the easy way out (Green, 102-103). Each of these is an example of Lupin's ignoring responsibilities or not standing up for himself. This stark contrast between Harry and Lupin is the reason Harry never truly sees Lupin as a father figure. They do not have the same code when it comes to these matters.

After the war Harry and his wife spend a lot of time with Lupin's son Teddy (*DH*, 757). This of course is after Tonks and Lupin are killed in the Battle of Hogwarts (*DH*, 661). Teddy essentially becomes a member of Harry's family in later years, allegedly attending dinner four nights a week (*DH*, 757). This shows Harry becoming the father figure for Teddy that Lupin was never able to be for Harry. At some point in writing Rowling decided that Lupin's character would have to be killed off. In an interview she admitted that in the earliest drafts of the final epilogue Lupin was alive and well ("A Conversation"). Rowling admitted to wanting to kill parents and Teddy Lupin was used

to show that wars leave orphans even when the good guys win (Brown). In the end Lupin is used as an example not as Harry's greatest father figure.

Chapter Five

Sirius Black

The relationship between Harry and his godfather Sirius Black is an odd one from the start. Harry does not learn the identity of his godfather and the crimes the man was accused of until Harry is 13 years old. On top of this Sirius has spent 12 years in a Azkaban. The connection the two share toes the line between father and friend. Sirius is a crucial character not only because he holds a key to Harry's past, but also because he is the closest thing Harry has to a father.

The first time the reader learns of Sirius Black's link to Harry is through a conversation between Mr. and Mrs. Weasley that Harry over hears; "Black is deranged, Molly, and he wants Harry dead" (*PoA*, 66). After this conversation Harry becomes confused and assumes that the reason Sirius wants him murdered is because Harry is responsible for Lord Voldemort's fall from power (*PoA*, 66). Throughout *The Prisoner of Azkaban* the reader sees an odd, complex relationship develop between Harry and Sirius.

Harry's puzzlement about Sirius is heightened by a conversation he has with Mr. Weasley directly before boarding the Hogwarts Express (*PoA*, 72). Mr. Weasley implores Harry not to go looking for Sirius, to which Harry questions why he would go looking for someone trying to kill him (*PoA*, 74). Sirius is mentioned intermittently throughout the first half of *The Prisoner of Azkaban*, but he becomes a prominent figure during the second half. It is at this point that the reader learns that the wizarding world has believed for the last twelve years that Sirius Black is the reason Lord Voldemort

found the Potters (*PoA*, 206). Finally the reader sees the reason behind Mr. Weasley's previous warning.

The tale of Peter Pettigrew's and Sirius' relationship with the Potters is a turning point in Sirius and Harry's initial relationship. After first hearing that Sirius wants to kill Harry, Harry's feelings toward Sirius are indifferent. Harry obviously does not love the man that he believes is trying to kill him, but other than that he has no strong feelings on the matter. After learning about Sirius' betrayal, Harry becomes filled with hatred. It's the first time in the series the reader sees a darker side of Harry. Previously when faced with evil in regards to his late parents, Harry meets the situation with grace and bravery. In *The Sorcerer's Stone* and *The Chamber of Secrets* Harry is confronted with Lord Voldemort, the man that murdered Lily and James. Harry has very strong reactions in both scenes and does in fact kill or defeat the form of Voldemort that he is faced with (*SS*, 295; *CoS*, 322). This desire to harm the one that killed his parents is always predicated by that person's attacking Harry. In both *The Sorcerer's Stone* and *The Chamber of Secrets* Harry's life is threatened by some form of Voldemort, preempting him attack his opponent in self-defense. His reaction to the news about Sirius and Peter Pettigrew proves to be very different.

For the first time the reader sees Harry agreeing with his long time nemesis Draco Malfoy (*PoA*, 215). Harry leads his best friends to believe that Draco's previous statement about getting revenge on Sirius is still in the back of Harry's mind (*PoA*, 127). Harry finally seems to be acting as expected for a boy who has lost so much. It is very uncharacteristic to see Harry not thinking about others, but merely wanting to cause pain. Before this point Harry had been offered darker rewards, but he always turned them

down with ease. In the first book he is offered life if he joins Voldemort, but Harry would rather die than let Voldemort have the Sorcerer's Stone (SS, 294). Later on in the series Harry is tested in similar ways, forcing him to examine the man he wants to become and figure out where his priorities lie, but this point in *Prisoner of Azkaban* is the first big test of Harry's character. Now the third novel becomes a story of reconciling this desire to avenge his parents' death.

The Prisoner of Azkaban ends with a twist. Harry learns that Peter Pettigrew was the one that betrayed the Potters and told Lord Voldemort where to find them (*PoA*, 366). It turns out that Sirius has always been loyal to the Potters and broke out of Azkaban to protect Harry in case Pettigrew decided to make a move (*PoA*, 371). Harry's connection to Sirius now becomes further complicated. A short time before this discovery Harry was talking about getting revenge on Sirius, making Sirius feel the pain Harry did. However after this extreme plot twist Harry's feelings toward Sirius could not be more different.

After the news of Sirius' innocence several important events occur that will define the future bond between Harry and Sirius. First, Harry makes it clear that they must not kill Pettigrew, but instead bring him to the castle in order to clear Sirius' name (*PoA*, 376). In this scene the reader welcomes back the Harry they have come to know over the previous two novels, a person filled with compassion. "I'm not doing this for you. I'm doing it because – I don't reckon my dad would've wanted them [Sirius and Lupin] to become killers – just for you [Pettigrew]" (*PoA*, 376). Earlier when Harry wanted vengeance he told his friends that he was not sure if his parents would be opposed to seeking it (*PoA*, 216). Now Harry is making a case for clearing Sirius' name because he knows his parents would want him to do that. The reader sees a transformation in Harry;

he is now confident and clear on how his parents would have felt about his actions in this matter.

The next significant event is Sirius' telling Harry that he would be welcome to come and live with Sirius after his name is cleared (*PoA*, 379). Harry immediately agrees and plays it off as just not wanting to live with the Dursleys. Later on the reader sees Harry's true feelings about living with Sirius; not only will he be in the wizarding world all year round, but he will be with his godfather, thus gaining a connection to his parents. For Harry this is seen as the only connection left to his parents, which explains the reason for his instant enthusiasm for the idea. The notion of Harry's living with Sirius brings a smile to Sirius' face causing Harry to remark, "he was recognizable as the man who had laughed at Harry's parents' wedding" (*PoA*, 379). Harry and Sirius start a relationship here that lasts throughout the rest of the series. For the first time they are both invested in pursuing the link between them that has been left untouched for twelve years.

The last significant occurrence after Harry and the others leave the Shrieking Shack is the change in Sirius' name. Up until this point in the novel Sirius has been referred to by his surname, Black. In the series Harry uses surnames for adults and enemies. Most characteristically surnames are used for Death Eaters. Lord Voldemort and his enemies all call the Death Eaters by their last names. Harry also uses surnames for Draco Malfoy and his cronies Vincent Crabbe and Gregory Goyle, which reinforces the idea that Harry uses surnames for enemies. These three students are referred to as Malfoy, Crabbe, and Goyle.

Professors at Hogwarts are also referred to by their last name; students will drop the title of professor and merely use the surname out of convenience. This title is used in

classes but Harry and his friends are seen dropping the title when talking amongst students. When talking with adults in the castle they are sure to add the title of professor to show respect. The few times Harry does not use the title are in regards to Severus Snape. Calling an individual by their surname is either a sign of disrespect or out of convenience. Throughout the majority of the third book Sirius Black is referred to by the characters and the narrator as simply, Black. At first one could make the point that it is done because the Daily Prophet and adults characters refer to him as Black as well. This argument falls through the moment Harry learns of what Sirius went to prison for. At this point Sirius becomes Harry's greatest enemy and the use of his surname Black is further employed. Once Harry develops a more positive relationship with Sirius, Harry starts to call him by his first name. In the rest of the books the narrator also refers to him as Sirius.

The switching of Sirius' name is a major turning point in the connection between Harry and Sirius. This shift is done very subtly so that many readers do not notice it. It shows a familiarity between Harry and his godfather and begins to develop the camaraderie that Rowling so cleverly makes the foundation of their bond. This is the first true instance that the reader can see the friendship that will grow out of their rapport.

The Prisoner of Azkaban is crucial to establishing the bond between godfather and godson. The way Rowling introduces Sirius is so elaborate that it relieves the tension that should arise in Sirius' offer concerning Harry's living arrangements. The moment Sirius asks Harry to move in with him after not knowing Harry for twelve of the thirteen years he's been alive should be an awkward one. Instead Harry is instantaneously enthused at the idea. He barely gives it a second thought. This reaction is almost as if

the initial unpleasant idea that Harry's godfather was trying to kill him has allowed them to side step the graceless stage of learning how to act with each other. Now Harry and Sirius can have a normal dynamic in this relationship that will continue to develop.

The important shifts in the third book all culminate with Harry's striving to free Sirius. Harry has always been known for his valor. His saving Sirius from the Dementor's Kiss displays the full transformation in his loyalty to Sirius. Harry is now a zealous supporter of Sirius, something that will be displayed more as the series continues. This final act of allegiance to Sirius shows the reader that Harry's relationship with Sirius will continue and that it is one of such great importance that Harry will risk his life for it.

The Prisoner of Azkaban ends with Harry and Sirius being forced apart by Sirius' need to stay hidden (*PoA*, 415). The following book, *The Goblet of Fire*, begins with this separation still going on, but the godfather and godson are able to communicate through letters (*GoF*, 24). At this point Sirius is still on the run and cannot afford to be too close to London, where the Ministry of Magic is located. It's known that Sirius is in the tropics because tropical birds deliver his letters at the start of the novel (*GoF*, 24). The fourth book begins with Harry's scar hurting. He immediately wants advice regarding this strange pain, but he must decide whom to ask. This scene is the first time the reader glimpses the complexity of Sirius and Harry's bond. Sirius is Harry's godfather and only guardian from the wizarding world, but he is so new to Harry's life that it takes a few moments of pondering which friend to ask for advice about his scar before he realizes he should ask his godfather (*GoF*, 22).

It takes a little while for Sirius to respond to Harry's letter about the lightning bolt scar, but when Harry does receive it the content shocks him. Sirius' reaction to the pain

in Harry's scar is not, as Harry had predicted, one of indifference but one of concern (*GoF*, 226). Sirius writes that he will be returning to England despite the danger in order to keep an eye on Harry (*GoF*, 226). Even after Harry attempts to calm Sirius' concern Sirius states his mind will not be changed (*GoF*, 240). This protective feeling Sirius has toward Harry is repeated over and over again throughout this novel. When Harry tells Sirius of his becoming a Triwizard Tournament champion Sirius reacts with great concerns and risks discovery yet again by talking to Harry in the Gryffindor Common Room via flue powder (*GoF*, 331). The disregard Sirius demonstrates toward his own cover is taken even further when he moves to Hogsmeade and allows Harry to visit him to discuss the happenings at Hogwarts (*GoF*, 520). This book is riddled with examples of Sirius playing the role of concerned parents toward Harry, as he makes sure Harry stays safe and encourages him to stay out of trouble, an attitude that will change in the next novel.

At the end of *The Goblet of Fire* Harry is taken into Dumbledore's office to sort out the mess that has happened with the Triwizard Tournament and Barty Crouch Jr. After entering the office Harry realizes that Sirius is there as well (*GoF*, 693). In this scene Sirius is presented as Harry's next of kin and brought in after Harry has undergone something very traumatic. It strengthens the idea that Harry and Sirius are close emotionally even though they have been far apart in distance for most of Harry's life. In this scene in the Dumbledore's office Sirius continues his role of protective parent. He does this by not so subtly requesting that Dumbledore wait to question Harry until the boy has had some rest (*GoF*, 694). Dumbledore brushes this request aside by stating "numbing the pain for awhile will make it worse when you finally feel it" (*GoF*, 695).

The scene in Dumbledore's office is crucial to the idea that Sirius is a father figure to Harry. Sirius is standing in where Harry's parents would have stood in--Sirius even has his hand placed on Harry's shoulder for most of this meeting (*GoF*, 694).

The bond between Sirius and Harry's parents is also strengthened here. When Harry recounts to Dumbledore and Sirius what happened in the graveyard Sirius is distraught. The distress stems mainly from the part about echoes of James and Lily appearing to Harry. Sirius grips Harry's shoulder so tightly Harry notes that it begins to cause him pain; Sirius also shows his desperation by burying his face in his hands when Harry recounts the tale of seeing his parent (*GoF*, 698). The reader can see how close the deaths of Harry's parents still are to Sirius. Clearly he was bound to the Potters in a very close relationship, one he hopes to continue on through Harry. The whole ordeal that has been taking place in Dumbledore's office concludes with yet another moment of Sirius' being the parent that Harry has wanted for so long.

After the tale has been recounted in as much detail as possible Dumbledore decides Harry will take a sleeping potion to gain some peace (*GoF*, 699). Sirius then transforms back into a dog and stays with Harry while he spends the night in a peaceful slumber (*GoF*, 699). Rowling offers the readers an exorbitant amount of examples concerning Sirius' love for Harry and the novel would not be complete without the final one. *The Goblet of Fire* concludes with members of the wizard community that believe Voldemort has returned banding together to prepare for what will surely come (*GoF*, 711). Dumbledore requests Sirius inform several other witches and wizards that will join in the fight, but at this moment Harry does not want to part with Sirius (*GoF*, 713). Throughout the novel Sirius' love for Harry has been proven time and time again, but

here in the conclusion of *The Goblet of Fire* Harry reveals to the reader that his love for Sirius is genuine and strong.

The Goblet of Fire is the most crucial book in developing Harry's relationship with Sirius. Sirius becomes a central character in *The Prisoner of Azkaban* but it is not until the end of the novel that Sirius is revealed to be a positive character that will continue to have an influence in Harry's life. Sirius is killed at the end of *The Order of the Phoenix*, which means that Rowling has a limited amount of time to develop their relationship. *The Goblet of Fire* is the only insight readers get into the relationship between Harry and Sirius before it becomes sour and Sirius dies.

The relationship between Harry and his godfather is tested greatly in *The Order of the Phoenix*, which is the last book in which Sirius Black appears in as a living member of the wizarding world. Here Harry finally becomes aware of the strange nature of his relationship with his godfather. The fifth book centers around Harry and his friends discovering the Order of the Phoenix. Here Sirius has returned to London to be closer to Harry, but this comes with the price of his freedom. Sirius has been confined to 12 Grimmauld Place and is unable to help with any Order business that occurs outside the headquarters (*OotP*, 79). Sirius offhandedly tells Harry that the only useful thing Sirius is able to contribute to the Order is a location for its headquarters.

In this book Sirius is depicted as a man struggling with his current position in society. The disconnect between what Sirius wants to contribute and what he is able to contribute affects his attitude toward Harry throughout the book. As Sirius begins to get more and more restless he urges Harry to act out more at Hogwarts, no doubt attempting to vicariously live through Harry. This is made apparent when Sirius takes a very large

risk by visiting Harry, Ron, and Hermione in the Gryffindor Common Room (*OotP*, 301). After their conversation Sirius asks Harry if he would like for Sirius to come visit him in Hogsmeade while disguised as a dog. Harry immediately refuses because he knows that this risk is too great and not worth the price of Sirius' being thrown back in Azkaban (*OotP*, 303). Sirius, hurt by Harry not wanting him to visit, strikes out against Harry by claiming "you're less like your father than I thought...the risk would've been what made it fun for James" (*OotP*, 305). This comment is extremely childish on Sirius' part and reinforces the idea that Sirius is beginning to resent Harry.

Up until *The Order of the Phoenix* the relationship between Harry and Sirius has been very positive, discounting the beginning when Harry thought Sirius was responsible for Lily's and James's deaths. Sirius has filled a void in Harry, becoming his go-to adult for advice on problems. In *The Order of the Phoenix* Sirius undergoes a change of sorts. He is locked up in the house and unable to leave. He tries to live vicariously through Harry, something Molly Weasley points out. This idea that Sirius treats Harry as a friend or in the same he would have treated James is reinforced by another conversation Sirius has with Harry in the fireplace in Gryffindor Common Room. After Sirius learns that Harry and his friends have started an illegal defense against the dark arts club he immediately goes to have a chat with them (*OotP*, 369).

Before Harry leaves for school Molly and Sirius get into a fight that foreshadows the aforementioned discussion between Sirius, Harry, Ron, and Hermione. This fight is the first time the reader gets a clear message that Harry and Sirius have an odd relationship. Mrs. Weasley claims Sirius treats his godson like a friend and sees their relationship as a way to getting back what Sirius lost when James died (*OotP*, 89). Molly

attests that Sirius treats Harry like a friend, something Harry's friends begin to champion also (*OotP*, 89). Hermione brings this point up later in the fifth book agreeing with Mrs. Weasley. After Sirius talks to Harry through the fire the second time and nearly gets caught, Hermione says she thinks Sirius has become somewhat reckless since being cooped up at headquarters (*OotP*, 378). She goes on to accuse Sirius of trying to live through Harry and his adventures at school because Sirius is trapped inside all day and night. Now it is not one but two characters that begin questioning Sirius' attitude toward Harry.

It has been previously noted that Harry is an immediate advocate for Sirius. His blind assertion that Sirius can do no wrong that appeared at the end of the third book is mirrored in the fifth book. Hermione asks Harry if he thinks it's odd the way Sirius acts and Harry fires the question right back at her which makes her uncomfortable and she drops the subject (*OotP*, 378). This is done in opposition to some of Harry's feelings that the reader is aware of. The longer Sirius is kept at 12 Grimmauld Place the more visible his anger and depression is. After Christmas there is a shift in the relationship between Harry and Sirius; Harry now feels the need to take care of Sirius. Harry returns to Hogwarts vowing not to open the gift Sirius has given him, some form of communication device, because Harry fears it will lure Sirius from the safety of the headquarters (*OotP*, 523).

The Order of the Phoenix and *The Goblet of Fire* create juxtaposition in the way the reader views Harry and Sirius' relationship. *The Goblet of Fire* builds the relationship into something tender and touching, while *The Order of the Phoenix* inserts doubt and complexity into the alliance between godfather and godson. Their connection

is further complicated by Sirius' death. The death of Sirius Black solidifies him as one of the most important characters in the series. Nearly all the adult characters that get close to Harry are killed off. This could have something to do with J.K. Rowling's statement about killing parents (Brown). Rowling has stated that she wanted to kill parental figures, which is why Tonks and Lupin were killed in the battle of Hogwarts (Brown).

Sirius' death could also be a tool to relate Sirius and James to each other. In some way Sirius and James begin to hold a similar place in Harry's heart. Throughout the series the reader sees Harry clinging to every bit of information he can about his parents. After Sirius dies Harry does the same thing and clings to the memory of his godfather. When Harry finds the two-way mirror that Sirius gave him Harry is convinced that this will allow him to see his godfather one last time (*OotP*, 358). It does not and Harry becomes disheartened. This inability to let go of Sirius, Lily, and James could result from a lack of closure. Harry is too young to see his parents die and when Sirius dies he disappears behind an archway, leaving no body to mourn. This lack of closure creates turmoil in Harry.

Sirius Black is mentioned in six of the seven novels that comprise this series. Descriptions of Sirius in his early days talk about how handsome and full of laughter he once was (*PoA*, 212). After Sirius' stay in Azkaban his physical description changes quite drastically. "The waxy skin was stretched so tightly over the bones of his face, it looked like a skull. His yellow teeth were bared in a grin," (*PoA*, 339). This is the description of Sirius the first time Harry lays eyes on him. The time between James' and Lily's deaths and Sirius' escape from Azkaban has taken its toll on Sirius.

Sirius is an unconventional father figure not merely because he treats Harry like friend rather than a godson. Spending 12 years in a prison that is designed to make the strongest criminal lose their mind takes is no easy feat. Throughout the series Sirius' mind is never questioned, but this should be the first question on everyone's mind. The idea that his stay in Azkaban might have mentally affected Sirius is brushed aside with his comment "the only reason I never lost my mind is that I knew I was innocent," (*PoA*, 371). Never again does a character, aside from Severus Snape who is Sirius' mortal enemy, question the state of Sirius' mind. Throughout *The Goblet of Fire* it appears that Sirius really has bounced back and returned to as much normalcy as possible while living as a fugitive. However in *The Order of the Phoenix* Sirius is once again locked up and the effects are apparent. He becomes sullen and moody very easily, especially when he knows he is about to be left alone in his old parents' house. These mood swings are responsible for the tension that arises between Harry and Sirius. As previously mentioned Harry, toward the end of *The Order of the Phoenix*, begins to look after Sirius, by not using the mirror and going to the Ministry of Magic to save Sirius, in the way that Sirius should be looking after Harry.

The mental state of Sirius Black makes his character that much more intriguing, especially in the context of a father figure to Harry. This flaw makes the relationship between Harry and Sirius more realistic; every relationship has flaws and must overcome spats and differences. These imperfections are what make Sirius the father figure that Harry does not choose. As the saying goes one can choose their friends but not one's family. This is the logic Harry struggles with in the first half of *The Prisoner of Azkaban*, learning to live with a godfather that aided in the murder of Harry's parents. Sirius will

always be Harry's godfather and father figure despite location, mortality, or attitude. Sirius is the father figure that Harry was given and accepted because there was no alternative as strong as Sirius.

John Algeo, a professor of English at the University of Georgia, published an article in which he discussed the meaning behind Sirius' name and his role as father figure toward Harry. The star Sirius is called "the Dog Star" because of its Latin meaning, but the Greek meaning is scorcher (Algeo). Algeo claims that this correlates to Sirius' strong emotion, since he metaphorically burns with emotion. This could be related to the meaning of dog, not only because of Sirius' extreme loyalty to James, Lily, and Harry but also because of his intense emotions. Dogs do feel emotions, most notably happiness when an owner returns. Algeo accuses Sirius of letting his emotions run away with him using the example of the prank he played on Snape that almost killed him (Algeo). This is also demonstrated in *The Order of the Phoenix* in the many disagreements Harry has with Sirius. Thus Sirius is a person with extremely strong emotions that can run away from him, but like the dog that he transforms into he has the ability to win over the hearts of characters and readers.

The obvious dynamic between Harry and Sirius should be that of guardian and child, but it is not the way their relationship plays out. Instead an unconventional tone is imposed on their connection during the last year of Sirius' life. This could be the result of Sirius and his strong emotions, his lack of freedom, or his time spent in wizarding prison. Whatever the reason it creates this odd kinship between the two. Despite their differences Harry loves Sirius as a father and this is demonstrated through Harry calling

Sirius back from the dead with the resurrection stone. Only significant figures are called back in this scene and Sirius is one of them, signifying his status of father figure.

Chapter Six

Dumbledore

The adult figure that Rowling spends the most time developing throughout the seven novels in the *Harry Potter* series is Albus Percival Wulfric Brian Dumbledore. At the start of the series Harry and Dumbledore do not have a very close relationship. However by the end of the final novel, Dumbledore is the most mentioned character in the series aside from the main three, Harry, Ron, and Hermione (“Top 200”). This amount of mentions shows that Dumbledore plays an immense role in the series, making him an obvious choice for father figure.

The Harry Potter series is riddled with characters that change before the reader’s eyes. In one scene Harry, and the reader, might believe a character to be sinister or trustworthy and later on this illusion is shattered. The most notable of these character twists is Severus Snape, who is revealed in the end to be the most noble and daring character in the series. There is one character that changes so effortlessly from the start of the series to the end that many readers might not even notice the transformation. In the beginning of the series Albus Dumbledore is a character that makes few appearances, but these appearances still place him in a role of mentor. The first interaction that Harry has with Dumbledore is in *The Sorcerer’s Stone* when Harry becomes obsessed with the Mirror of Erised (SS, 212). In this first book of the series there are hints of Dumbledore’s importance, but this is only visible after reading all seven books. To the reader Dumbledore’s significance in Harry’s life grows throughout the series particularly in *The Order of the Phoenix*.

Dumbledore's relationship with Harry starts early on in the series, in fact Dumbledore is the first father figure that is discussed thesis that appears in the story. It is Dumbledore who leaves a baby Harry at the Dursley house that starts the series off, leaving the reader to note his importance early on (SS, 13). Harry has his first memorable interaction with Dumbledore about halfway through *The Sorcerer's Stone*. During his first year at Hogwarts Harry becomes entranced with the Mirror of Erised.

The third time Harry visits the locked classroom to stand in front of this powerful magical mirror Dumbledore is waiting for him (SS, 212). Dumbledore implies that he had been watching Harry and Ron when they visited the Mirror of Erised together, whether Dumbledore was keeping an eye on the students or the mirror is yet to be known (SS, 213). This scene in front of the mirror shows Dumbledore offer his first bit of wisdom to Harry "it does not do to dwell on dreams and forget to live," (SS, 214). This is part of the set up for the role of mentor that Dumbledore will fill that is established further at the end of the book. The scene also shows the first glimpse into the mystery that is Dumbledore's life outside of Hogwarts. When Harry asks what Dumbledore sees when he looks into the Mirror of Erised Dumbledore claims he sees a nice pair of socks; later Harry reflects that this might not have been the truth (SS, 214). The idea that Dumbledore keeps personal information from Harry is not revisited until *The Deathly Hallows*, but Rowling cleverly plants it here to show that all along Dumbledore was a bit of a mystery.

The idea that Dumbledore is keeping certain facts from Harry is first introduced in *The Sorcerer's Stone*. The scene in the hospital wing after Dumbledore has saved

Harry from Quirrell and Voldemort is paramount in setting the tone of the relationship between Harry and Dumbledore throughout the entire series. Here Harry begins asking Dumbledore questions implying that Dumbledore has all this knowledge that Harry will one day need. Dumbledore agrees to answer truthfully but he says there are some questions he has valid reasons for not answering at this time (SS, 298). The first question is the most obvious and Harry asks why Voldemort targeted him all those years ago (SS, 298). Dumbledore says that he cannot answer this question now, but Harry will learn the reason Voldemort desires to kill him so much when he grows older (SS, 299).

This scene shows us that Dumbledore will act as Harry's guide throughout the series, because it is Dumbledore that is the keeper of the knowledge Harry needs. The scene also shows Dumbledore caring for Harry. If Dumbledore did not love Harry on some level he would not feel the need to keep things from Harry to protect him. The end of *The Sorcerer's Stone* sets up this idea that Dumbledore will come to save the day in the end. He will be Harry's mentor. Dumbledore tells Harry that at this time, at the tender age of eleven, Harry does not need to know the reason Voldemort hunts him; instead Dumbledore urges Harry to put the question out of mind until the time is right (SS, 299). Harry's trust in Dumbledore is exemplified in the way he follows these instructions. The reader never sees Harry wonder this question again until Dumbledore finally reveals the answer in *The Order of the Phoenix* (OotP, 842).

The Chamber of Secrets does not develop Harry and Dumbledore's relationship as much as the other novels. There is one significant moment in this novel though. At the end, after Harry has destroyed the Horcrux Dumbledore talks to Ron and Harry, but then sends Ron away because he wants to discuss a few more things with Harry (CoS, 331). It

implies that Dumbledore seeks Harry out as a mentee, someone that he must advise and train. Dumbledore also stresses to Harry the importance of the decisions he makes and how they are the true definition of his character (*CoS*, 333). Once again Dumbledore is this omniscient figure in Harry's life that always seems to have the right answer, something that is tested in *The Prisoner of Azkaban*.

The infinite wisdom that Dumbledore seems to possess is referenced over and over throughout the series. He always appears calm and rational, never letting emotions guide his thought. In *The Prisoner of Azkaban* Harry and Hermione convince Dumbledore that Sirius Black is indeed innocent (*PoA*, 593). For a moment Harry thinks that even Dumbledore cannot save Sirius from having his soul removed; this fear is reinforced by Dumbledore's saying, "I have no power to make other men see the truth" (*PoA*, 393). Of course within moments it is revealed that Dumbledore actually does have an epic plan that will save Sirius and Buckbeak from death. In true mentor fashion Dumbledore does not reveal all that he wants Harry and Hermione to do when they travel back in time, instead they must decipher his message and figure out the journey on their own.

This is the first time in the series the idea that Dumbledore might not be able to save the day arises. Of course in this example he is able to save the day, but as the series continues the reader sees that even Albus Dumbledore is not impervious to failure. The scene also reinforces Dumbledore has a mentor or father figure to Harry. Dumbledore is guiding him toward the right path and training him for what will come later.

The Goblet of Fire develops a stronger relationship between Harry and Dumbledore than the previous three books. Dumbledore becomes more accessible here

and this idea that he is a gentle grandfather of sorts to Harry is introduced. When the whole school is gathered at the Yule Ball Harry overhears a conversation between Igor Karkaroff and Dumbledore about the schools they are head of. Dumbledore states he could never learn all of Hogwarts' secrets and uses an example of finding a room entirely filled with chamber pots on his way to the bathroom, which is later revealed to be the Room of Requirement (*GoF*, 417). The room had vanished when he went back to investigate later (*GoF*, 417). In another scene at Hagrid's hut Hermione lets slip that she believes Rita Skeeter to be a cow of a woman and immediately apologizes to Dumbledore for saying such an offensive comment (*GoF*, 453). Dumbledore replies that he temporarily went deaf in one ear and heard nothing she had said (*GoF*, 453). These two scenes are just a few examples of the way Dumbledore appears more down to earth in this novel. He is someone they can feel comfortable talking to, someone who makes jokes, and that they can trust. These qualities are reminiscent of a grandparent or a father and make it obvious that Dumbledore is becoming closer to Harry.

The Goblet of Fire is a pivotal point in the series. This book marks the return of Lord Voldemort and with it the series takes a much darker turn (*GoF*, 643). This is also Harry's first test against a full-bodied Voldemort, which Harry narrowly escapes from. In this novel after Barty Crouch Jr. is discovered Dumbledore brings Harry to his office to talk in private before Madame Pomfrey whisks Harry off to the hospital wing (*GoF*, 693). Dumbledore has summoned Harry's godfather, Sirius Black, to sit with Harry while they discuss what happened in the graveyard (*GoF*, 693).

The scene in Dumbledore's office shows Dumbledore overpowering Sirius. On occasion during Harry's story Sirius tries to interrupt to ask a question or give a comment

but Dumbledore raises his hand in silence each time (*GoF*, 695). Harry is thankful for this gesture because the tale is so difficult to tell that he fears stopping would make him lose his strength, something it appears Dumbledore understands better than Sirius (*GoF*, 695). Here the reader sees the care that Dumbledore feels for Harry. He pushes Harry to recount this tale and feel the full emotion of seeing his parents' echoes and seeing Cedric murdered. Dumbledore admits to thinking that avoiding the retelling of the night's events will only numb the pain and make feeling it later that much worse (*GoF*, 695). This concern could be fabricated to extract the valuable information from Harry quickly, but when added to the many other examples of Dumbledore's caring it makes sense that he wants what is best for Harry.

The Order of the Phoenix shows not only a rift in the relationship between Harry and Sirius but also between Harry and Dumbledore. This is a contrast to the way the two have interacted in the rest of the series. Throughout the novel the central characters are working to fight Lord Voldemort. The scene after Harry has the vision of Mr. Weasley being attacked by the snake proves to be very informative on the relationship between Harry and Dumbledore in this novel. Harry makes a mental note that Dumbledore will not look him in the eye, which further exacerbates Harry's feeling that he has done something wrong by having this vision (*OotP*, 468). The scene also shows this idea that Dumbledore might be hiding things from Harry. Dumbledore taps a small silver instrument with his wand and a serpent made of smoke appears then splits itself in two (*OotP*, 470). Dumbledore acts as if this smoke serpent is very telling of something, but Harry and the reader never learn what. In the later novels Rowling gives the audience more information about Horcruxes and the connection between Harry and Lord

Voldemort, giving more meaning to these smoke serpents. Based on the later information it seems likely that the original smoke serpent was Lord Voldemort and when Dumbledore asked “But in essence divided?” they split in two signifying the part of Voldemort’s soul that resides in Harry (*OotP*, 470). Therefore Dumbledore realizes something in this scene that he decides Harry should not know yet, thus keeping this piece of information from Harry and the reader. It is not until the end of *The Deathly Hallows* that the reader understands the true connection between Harry and Voldemort.

In this novel Harry is forced to work with the professor that he has always despised the most. Professor Snape gives Harry Occlumency lessons in an effort to protect the teenager’s mind from Voldemort (*OotP*, 519). As expected these lessons end in disaster and Harry wonders about the reason behind Dumbledore’s appointing Snape to give these lessons (*OotP*, 519). This question is answered in Dumbledore’s office after Harry has returned from the Ministry of Magic. Dumbledore reveals that throughout the year he has tried to distance himself from Harry (*OotP*, 828). This distance was noticed by Harry and it created a rift between the two characters. Before Dumbledore always seemed to be there to help Harry, but now the two have little to no contact. It marks a stark turn in their relationship and sets up the scene in Dumbledore’s office.

The most significant scene in this novel comes after Sirius has died and the battle at the Ministry of Magic has taken place. Harry returns to Dumbledore’s office a few moments before Dumbledore himself gets back. A portrait of a former Hogwarts headmaster tells Harry that Dumbledore holds Harry in very high esteem (*OotP*, 822). This admission that Dumbledore does care for Harry, even after a year of distancing himself from Harry cannot lift Harry’s spirits after the events of the evening. When

Dumbledore enters the room Harry becomes very angry. This first part of the scene Harry yells at Dumbledore, smashes objects, and makes terrible comments all the while Dumbledore calmly watches him (*OotP*, 824).

After Harry has released the greater amount of his frustration he sits down at Dumbledore's desk and allows the headmaster to explain certain things to him (*OotP*, 827). The first thing that Dumbledore reveals is the reason behind his absence from Harry's life over the past year. "I was sure that if he realized that our relationship was—or had ever been—closer than that of headmaster and pupil, he would seize his chance to use you as a means to spy on me," (*OotP*, 828). Dumbledore goes onto say that through distancing himself from Harry he thought he was protecting Harry from Voldemort (*OotP*, 828). Dumbledore protecting Harry is essential to this scene and shows how much Dumbledore cares for Harry.

Dumbledore admits to Harry that the information he asked for his first year at Hogwarts was kept from Harry because Dumbledore did not want to burden him yet with such heavy knowledge at the tender age of eleven (*OotP*, 838). However he expands on this truth by saying "I cared more for your happiness than your knowing the truth, more for your peace of mind than my plan, more for your life than the lives that might be lost if my plan failed. In other words, I acted exactly as Voldemort expects we fools in love to act" (*OotP*, 838). This is the first time the reader sees Dumbledore making a serious comment on his relationship with Harry. Clearly they are more than student and teacher. Dumbledore, like parental figures, did things for Harry that he knew would be best, like sending him to the Dursleys. However after putting him through so much as a result Dumbledore could not bring himself to share this most important knowledge with Harry

that would change his life. This office scene ends with Harry finally seeing the rue emotions that Dumbledore has for him. Dumbledore makes a comment on the amount of responsibility that was forced upon Harry 15 years ago when Voldemort gave him his scar (*OotP*, 844). When Harry looks his professor in the eye he, noticing that Dumbledore is crying, finally comprehends that Dumbledore loves Harry (*OotP*, 844).

The Order of the Phoenix also introduces a new subplot about Dumbledore's mysterious past. Throughout the first four novels of the series the reader does learn much about the background of the teachers. Snape is the one exception to this only because his past is tied to James and Lily Potter. In the previously described scene in Dumbledore's office he mentions that he understands Harry's pain at losing a loved one (*OotP*, 823). Harry disregards this information but it could be assumed that Dumbledore too has gone through very painful things in his lifetime. The actuality of the pain Dumbledore suffered is revealed in *The Deathly Hallows* with the story of Arianna Dumbledore (*DH*, 717-718).

Harry and Dumbledore interact constantly in *The Half Blood Prince*. After *The Order of the Phoenix* Dumbledore realizes that he needs to teach Harry all the things he will need to know to fight Lord Voldemort. *The Half Blood Prince* is so rich with interactions between Harry and Dumbledore that there is not enough time here to go through all of them. Instead focusing on the key interactions and the overall message they send will show the true relevance this novel plays in Harry and Dumbledore's relationship.

Dumbledore begins his journey with Harry in this novel by marking Harry as an equal. Harry accompanies Dumbledore to find Horace Slughorn, a returning professor of

Hogwarts (HBP, 60). Dumbledore has been trying to convince Slughorn to return as potions master; however he continually refuses, that is until Harry shows up (HBP, 66). Dumbledore uses Slughorn's love of the famous and powerful to get him to take a job at Hogwarts, this is the reason Harry was asked to come along (HBP, 74). Harry would be the most powerful and famous wizard that Horace could teach, making Harry a bait of sorts (HBP, 75). Dumbledore brings Harry along because he knows that Harry can handle this and be trusted with tasks similar to these. Later in the novel Dumbledore asks Harry to extract a memory from Horace Slughorn, which proves to be crucial in understanding how to defeat Lord Voldemort (HBP, 372). Moments like these show that Harry has graduated from mere pupil, Dumbledore is now training him and guiding him to complete the task that was prophesized 17 years prior.

The Half-Blood Prince is not only filled with moments that resemble mentor and mentee when it comes to Harry and Dumbledore. There are also some incredibly tender moments that show the full range of their relationship. After visiting Slughorn in a strange Muggle home, Dumbledore pulls Harry aside to talk about the events of the past year (HBP, 76). Dumbledore congratulates Harry on the way he coped with the death of his godfather (HBP, 76). Dumbledore offers his sympathy and understanding at how short Harry's relationship was with Sirius, showing the caring and respect Dumbledore has for Harry (HBP, 76). This interaction is summed up when Dumbledore tells Harry that Lily, James, and Sirius would all have been proud of him (HBP, 77). This is mentioned after Harry says, "It could be me next [to die], couldn't it? But if it is...I'll make sure I take as many death eaters with me as I can, and Voldemort too if I can manage it" (HBP, 77). This is such a tender moment of Harry's understanding that death

is always around the corner and that one must live with that knowledge and not dwell on it. Dumbledore is proud of this and offers Harry the greatest compliment, telling Harry his parents would be proud too.

The final moment between Harry and Dumbledore is wrought with suspense and sadness. The events of this novel culminate in the astronomy tower of Hogwarts. Harry and Dumbledore had returned from a mission to retrieve a Horcrux when they are surprised by Draco Malfoy (*HBP*, 584). It is at this moment that the reader, looking closely, can see the emotion that Dumbledore and Harry have for one another.

Dumbledore, wishing to keep Harry from harm, performs a silent immobilizing curse with the last second he has before he is disarmed (*HBP*, 584). Harry is confused by the action and is rendered trapped inside his immobile body watching while Dumbledore is killed (*HBP*, 596). The love that Harry has for Dumbledore is evident when Harry, now free from the spell, attempts to kill Snape with the *Sectumsempra* curse, which Snape quickly blocks (*HBP*, 603). This moment shows the anger that fills Harry and mirrors a moment that happened a year prior to this event.

When Sirius was killed at the ministry by Bellatrix LeStrange Harry became engulfed in anger (*HBP*, 809). Just as in *The Chamber of Secrets* Harry wants nothing but sweet revenge against the person that took someone dear to him (*PoA*, 215). Harry chases after Bellatrix and twice attempts to use an unforgivable curse to torture her (*OotP*, 810). In *The Half-Blood Prince* Harry was again becomes filled with the desire for revenge and tries to kill Snape (*HBP*, 603). These three examples are the result of a death. In *The Chamber of Secrets* Harry is led to believe Sirius killed his parents and therefore Harry wants to kill him (p. 215). Likewise, *The Order of the Phoenix* shows

Harry wanting to use the *Crucio* curse against the person that killed his godfather (p. 810). Finally in *The Half-Blood Prince* Dumbledore is killed and Harry seeks revenge against his killer, Snape (p. 603). Each example shows someone close to Harry dying and he has the same reaction in all three, revenge and death. This shows that his parents, Sirius, and Dumbledore all hold a similar place in Harry's heart. Harry is willing to murder to get vengeance for the lives of these characters, which is the only time Harry comes close to killing someone.

After Dumbledore's death Harry reflects on the feeling of abandonment and loneliness, now thinking he will make his journey alone (*HBP*, 636). Dumbledore's death marks a change in Harry. It is true that Harry has long been a very mature wizard; however his emotions were very strong and often he let them carry him away. The previous examples of his vengeful rampages after the deaths of Sirius and Dumbledore demonstrate this point well (*OotP*, 810; *HBP*, 603). However after Harry has begun to process Dumbledore's death he no longer seems ruled by emotion, but instead by reason and necessity. Harry admits he understood immediately that Dumbledore was dead and would not return (*HBP*, 639). This is the moment Harry accepts that no one will be able to protect him forever, that his future is waiting to be claimed by his actions alone, not by those of a protector, mentor, or parent. Only by abandoning this illusion will Harry be able to complete the task at hand (*HBP*, 645).

Although Dumbledore died in *The Half-Blood Prince* he remains a central character in *The Deathly Hallows*. In this novel Harry searches for the true Dumbledore the same way he searched for his parents. Dumbledore always had a very mysterious past and throughout the seventh novel Harry slowly uncovers bits and pieces of this past.

In this previous life Harry sees many similarities between himself and Dumbledore and feels hurt that Dumbledore never shared these with Harry (*DH*, 159). Dumbledore's life turns out to be yet another teaching tool to show Harry the right path. By seeing the darkness and obsession that affected Dumbledore's life toward the Deathly Hallows and Gellert Grindelwald, Harry is able to steer away from these same pitfalls.

In the end Harry is able to see Dumbledore one last time, in a mysterious place that resembles King's Cross Station (*DH*, 707). This mysterious place offers Harry a moment to talk to Dumbledore and discuss Harry's future, the events of the battle, and their relationship (*DH*, 707-723). It is this moment that all the knowledge Harry has accumulated about Dumbledore's life comes to head. Harry is finally able to discuss these things with Dumbledore, specifically the search for the Deathly Hallows (*DH*, 713). Dumbledore admits to not being worthy of possessing all three Hallows and states that Harry is the person that is truly worthy (*DH*, 718). Dumbledore praises Harry for being the true master of death because Harry, like the third brother, accepted the inevitability of death and understood there are things in life that are worse than dying (*DH*, 721). Harry is finally able to understand the pain Dumbledore has seen and why it was kept hidden from Harry. These actions were done to protect Harry from getting caught up in the glory of the Hallows, to keep him on the right path. This scene in King's Cross brings Harry full circle with his first interaction with Dumbledore, the one six years prior in front of the Mirror of Erised (*SS*, 212). Harry finally knows that Dumbledore, like Harry, saw his lost love ones alive and well in the mirror (*DH*, 719).

All these moments throughout Harry's life show that Dumbledore truly cares for the boy. However whether Dumbledore is Harry's father figure is still up for debate.

Based on the interactions between Harry and Dumbledore throughout the *Harry Potter* series the characters are very close and Dumbledore clearly guides Harry through many situations. Dumbledore is without a doubt Harry's mentor throughout the series. In the end their relationship is that of a mentor and pupil.

The Deathly Hallows reveals startling information about Dumbledore past including his greed for power and the death of his sister (DH, 566-567). This information greatly changes the heroic image that Harry and the reader has been carrying around for the first six novels of the series. It shows Dumbledore as a sort of false hero and in this book Harry questions many things like the intent behind Dumbledore putting a boy of 17 through so much danger (Nikolajeva, 199). In fact when Harry views Snape's memories he sees Harry understands that all along Dumbledore knew Harry would have to die and was "raising him like a pig for slaughter" (DH, 687). A false hero is denoted as someone that is unable to perform the tasks the hero is assigned (Nikolajeva, 200). By this definition Dumbledore is a false hero, and in King's Cross Station the reader sees that Harry was able to do the things Dumbledore could not, like manage power (DH, 718).

By sharing all the information with Harry Dumbledore failed as a father figure, leaving Harry to never see him that way. Dumbledore's emotions in some scenes, like the final office scene in *The Order of the Phoenix*, show he must have cared for Harry in some way. However this thesis is about the adults Harry sees as parental figures, not about those who see Harry as their child. By not calling Dumbledore back with the Resurrection Stone in the Forbidden Forest, Harry makes a statement as to his parental figures (DH, 699). Dumbledore is not a father or mother that could give him the comfort that other characters can. In the end King's Cross Station shows Harry coming to terms

with the hurt Dumbledore caused him. It is important to note that the scene in King's Cross Station is all in Harry's head (*DH*, 723).

Right before departing Harry asks Dumbledore if the previous conversation was real and Dumbledore replies, "Of course it is happening inside your head, Harry, but why on earth should that mean it is not real?" (*DH*, 723). This shows Harry that he has this knowledge within him. Dumbledore is now not the only one that knows everything about Tom Riddle, Voldemort, Hallows, and love. This is the final marker for Dumbledore's and Harry's relationship; now they each share knowledge, downfalls, and triumphs. In this scene Harry also forgives Dumbledore for everything, bringing their relationship to a close.

Dumbledore is the mentor. He grooms Harry to be the man that Dumbledore was never able to be in his lifetime. Rowling said in an interview that Dumbledore instills in Harry the morals that Dumbledore was never able to live by, but only preach ("A Conversation"). These are morals of love, choosing your own fate, acceptance, trust, and humility. Dumbledore was the closest man to ever gain the deathly hallows, something that Harry himself was able to do. Dumbledore instilled in Harry the strength to give up the greatest power in the world for something better, a tomorrow. In the end Dumbledore is Harry's mentor, something a father would ideally be, however Dumbledore's lack of ability to share knowledge about his past and Harry's future leave Harry to view the headmaster as a mentor not a father.

Conclusion

The *Harry Potter* series tracks the journey of an orphaned boy who must face his destiny. There are many pitfalls and twists that meet Harry on this tumultuous journey, some of which are less apparent than others. Based on research done by Wind Goodfriend on attachment theory it is evident that Harry Potter suffers from this affliction (Goodfriend, 76). Goodfriend points out that Harry displays common symptoms of attachment disorder like lack of confidence and solidarity (p. 85-86). According to attachment theory the only way one suffering from this can establish and maintain a stable romantic relationship is to find a steadfast parental figure (Goodfriend, 88). This being said finding a constant parental figure is essential to Harry's later life.

Based on the parental figures that Harry becomes attached to throughout the series there is an emphasis on the father figure. That characters looked at in this thesis include only three women, which are made up of Harry's biological mother, his neglecting aunt, and his future mother in law. The way Harry interacts with these characters reveals that Lily Potter is the true mother figure. On the other hand James Potter, Vernon Dursley, Arthur Weasley, Remus Lupin, Sirius Black, and Albus Dumbledore make up the six potential father figures that Harry has. This unbalanced ratio between the number of mother and father figures emphasizes Harry's desire to find a father figure.

Vernon Dursley is not Harry's father figure because of the verbal abuse and terrible treatment of Harry throughout his time at Number 4 Privet Drive. Arthur Weasley does become Harry's father in law and is the best father depicted in the series. Unfortunately Arthur's relationship with Harry never reaches the familiarity of father and son during the novels. Lupin shows some real potential but his lack of control and his

stark differences in morals compared to Harry's inhibit Lupin from becoming Harry's father figure. For these reasons there are only two other choices for Harry's father figure Sirius or Dumbledore.

Dumbledore seems to be the most obvious choice for father figure because of his relationship with Harry and the amount of appearances throughout the series. In the end Dumbledore is not Harry's father figure. Dumbledore's treatment of Harry in the last two novels cripples his relationship with Harry. Although Harry is able to forgive his former headmaster in the end, Harry does not view Dumbledore as a father figure. Instead it is Sirius that is the true father figure. This realization is manifested in the way Harry and Sirius interact, the way Harry forgives Sirius time and again, and finally in Harry's choice of Sirius to comfort Harry before he dies. Through Sirius Harry finds a connection to his biological parents and the relationship between the godfather and godson allows Harry to have a fulfilled romantic and family life (*DH*, 754).

Abbreviations

“A Conversation with J. K. Rowling and Daniel Radcliffe” (“A Conversation”)

“Can you name the top 200 characters in the Harry Potter series by number of mentions?”

(“Top 200”)

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone (SS)

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (CoS)

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (PoA)

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (GoF)

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (OotP)

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (HBP)

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (DH)

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Glossary

12 Grimmauld Place: Once the childhood home of Sirius Black, it served as headquarters to the Order of the Phoenix between 1995-1996. Harry Potter inherited the house upon Sirius' death.

Animagus: A witch or wizard that can turn into an animal at will. Training to be an animagus takes some time and the animal that the witch or wizard turns into is the same. For example Sirius Black is an animagus and turns into a big black dog. Traditionally animagi are registered, however throughout the *Harry Potter* series several unregistered animagi are revealed.

Azkaban: Wizarding Prison located somewhere in the sea. This prison is guarded by dark creatures known as Dementors that typically cause prisoners to lose their sanity.

Battle of the Astronomy Tower: This battle took place during Harry's sixth year and resulted in the death of Albus Dumbledore. It occurred when Draco Malfoy aided Death Eaters in entering Hogwarts and ambushing Dumbledore.

Battle of the Department of Mysteries: This Battle took place during Harry's fifth year and began when members of Dumbledore's Army went to the Department of Ministries to save Sirius Black. This battle resulted in the death of Sirius and exposed Voldemort's return to the greater wizarding community.

Battle of Hogwarts: This is the final battle that takes place in the series. The Second Wizarding War culminates at this battle that occurs at Hogwarts. Here Voldemort is vanquished as are the remaining Horcruxes.

Boggart: This is a magical creature that assumes the shape of it's opponents greatest fear. Laughter is the easiest way to defeat a boggart.

The Burrow: This is the home of the Weasley family, located in rural England.

Death Eaters: This is the name given to followers of Voldemort. True Death Eaters have a tattoo like marking called the Dark Mark. This further distinguishes them as allegiant to Voldemort.

The Deathly Hallows: Made up of the Elder Wand, The Resurrection Stone, and the Cloak of Invisibility, the Deathly Hallows are rumored to make the possessor of all three a "Master of Death." They appear in a wizarding children's tale, however the objects are very real and appear in the seventh Harry Potter novel.

Dementor: This is a magical creature that feeds off happiness. Dementors soak up all the happiness around them leaving humans to feel cold and depressed. These creatures guard the wizarding prison Azkaban.

Dementor's Kiss: The Dementor has one known weapon, the Kiss. Through this "kiss" the Dementor sucks a person's soul out of their body. The victim does not die, but instead will live the rest of their life without a soul.

Department of Mysteries: This is one branch of the Ministry of Magic. It is responsible for carrying out confidential research that most wizards are not privy to. Harry and some other characters to enter this department in *Order of the Phoenix* to get to the Hall of Prophecy.

Flue Powder: A mode of travel that allows users to transport from one fire place to another. The fireplace must be hooked up to the Flue Network; this insures that Muggle fireplaces will not be bothered.

Forbidden Forest: Located on the ground of Hogwarts, this forest is off limits to students because it holds many dangerous creatures.

The Great Hall: The gathering room for Hogwarts students, also the room where feasts are held.

Gryffindor House: This is one of the four houses at Hogwarts and was founded by Godric Gryffindor. Harry Potter is in this house.

Gryffindor common room: A large room in Gryffindor Tower where house members can lounge and socialize.

Hall of Prophecy: Located in the Department of Mysteries, this hall houses records of prophecies.

Harry's Scar: This scar is the result of Dark Magic and is therefore untreatable. It is also the source of the connection between Harry and Voldemort.

Head Boy: A male student at Hogwarts in his seventh year that has been appointed to a position of authority.

Hogsmeade: A wizarding town located near Hogwarts where students can visit on certain weekends. Students in their first and second years are not permitted to visit.

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry: A school that teaches young witches and wizards between the ages of 11 and 17. Students attend Hogwarts four seven years until they are legal adults. It was founded by Godric Gryffindor, Helga Hufflepuff, Rowena Ravenclaw, and Salazar Slytherin.

Hogwarts Express: A train that transports students from King's Cross Station to Hogwarts.

Horcrux: A magical object that contains part of a witch or wizard's soul. The soul is split when the witch or wizard performs unspeakable crimes, like murder. Most notably Voldemort created seven Horcruxes: the diary, the ring, the locket, the cup, the diadem, the snake, and Harry Potter.

Invisibility cloak: This cloak belongs to Harry and was passed down by his father, James. It allows the wearer to become invisible, however this particular cloak never wears off or tears. In the final novel the characters and reader find out this is the Cloak of Invisibility of the Deathly Hallows.

King's Cross Station: This may refer to the train station located in London where the Hogwarts Express is boarded every year. It can also refer to the dream-like place Harry visited after Voldemort killed him in the Forbidden Forest.

Ministry of Magic: Located in underground London, this serves as the main governing body of the United Kingdom's magical community.

Mirror of Erised: This magical object reflects an image of the onlooker's deepest desires.

Muggle: A term used for non-magical folk. This is not to be confused with a squib, which is a term used for a non-magical person born to magical parents.

Number 4 Privet Drive: This is the home of the Dursleys, where Harry grew up.

Occlumency: This branch of magic allows the user (an occlumens) to shield their thoughts from penetration by another witch or wizard. The opposite of Occlumency is legilimency, which allows the user to penetrate the thoughts of another witch or wizard.

Order of the Phoenix (the Order): This is a group committed to fighting dark arts, specifically Lord Voldemort. It was formed during the first wizarding war and was restarted when Voldemort returned to power in 1995.

Ordinary Wizarding Level exams (OWLs): These exams are taken at the end of a student's fifth year and determine if a student can take the sections of these subjects in the following years.

Patronus: This is created through the Patronus Charm and defends a person against dementors. The patronus is an animal shape that is unique to the witch or wizard and can only be changed in cases of extreme emotion change like falling in love or loss of love.

Patronus Charm: This charm is used to fight Dementors and is a force field of positive energy. A full-bodied patronus will take the shape of an animal and is unique to the wizard.

Pensieve: This is an instrument used to collect and reexamine one's thoughts. Memories can be extracted from any individual and dropped in the pensieve. The user can then be transported into the desired memory, however they are unable to interact, they can only watch.

Platform 9 ¾ : This is the platform from which the Hogwarts Express departs. It is located between platforms 9 and 10 in King's Cross Station and is hidden from muggles.

Priori Incantatum: This phenomenon occurs when twin wands of the same core are forced to battle against one another and connect. This can cause one of the wands to reverse spells. This occurred between Harry and Voldemort and caused echoes of the last five people Voldemort killed to appear from his wand.

Quidditch: A magical sport played on broomsticks with three balls and four different player positions. Keepers guard the goal posts so the other team cannot score. Chasers must take the Quaffle and throw it through the goal posts to score 10 points. Beaters use bats to knock the two Bludgers at the opposing team. The Seeker does not participate in regular play and has the sole job of finding the Golden Snitch, a small flying ball, that scores gives a team 150 points and ends the game.

Resurrection Stone: One of the Deathly Hallows, this object brings people back from the dead. Spirits called back with this stone are between human and spirit and do not belong in the living world.

Room of Requirement: A room in Hogwarts that changes depending on the needs of the user. Ex. Albus Dumbledore once walked in when he needed to use the bathroom and the room was full of chamber pots.

Sectumsempra: A curse that creates deep cuts in the victim and could result in death. It was developed by Severus Snape.

Shrieking Shack: Many believe this to be the most haunted location in all of England. However in *The Prisoner of Azkaban* it is revealed that Remus Lupin was hidden here to undergo his werewolf transformation during the full moon.

Sorcerer's Stone a.k.a. Philosopher's Stone: A magical object created by Nicholas Flamel that allows the owner to create the Elixir of Life and become immortal.

St Mungo's Hospital for Magical Injuries: This hospital is located in London and treats magical injuries for Muggles and wizarding folk.

Triwizard Tournament: A tournament between the largest wizarding schools, including Hogwarts, where each school chooses one champion to compete for the Triwizard Cup.

Two-way mirror: A mirror given to Harry by Sirius that the user to see what is on the other mirror. It was used by James Potter and Sirius to communicate during detentions at school.

Unforgivaeable Curses: These curses are prohibited by law. They include *Avada Kedavra* (the Killing Curse), *Crucio* (the Cruciatus Curse), and *Imperio* (The Imperius Curse). The Cruciatus Curse is used to torture individuals while the Imperius Curse allows the performer to control the recipient.

Voldemort: The most powerful dark wizard to ever live and the foe of Harry Potter.

Weasley Sweater: These sweaters are knit by Molly Weasley for all her children every Christmas.

Werewolf: A creature that is part human, part wolf. During the full moon a werewolf will transform from a person to a wolf-like creature and temporarily loose their mind.

Wizarding World: A term used for the world of witches and wizards.

Wolfsbane potion: A potion taken by werewolves to relieve the symptoms of being a werewolf, however it does not cure or stop transformation.

Yule Ball: The traditional holiday ball held during the Triwizard Tournament.